(c) FICCI has made the following recommendations:

(i) Establishment of an Independent regulator coupled with efficient arbitration mechanism which would help resolve issues at a faster pace.

(ii) Project superintendent by vested with adequate prowers to resolve issues at ground level.

(iii) Project awarding authorities to stick to original design and that all deliberations related to technical matters and traffic projections take place before the project begins.

(iv) Taking necessary steps to have supply of employable manpower on a continuous basis including long term measures like upgradation of ITIs and training institutes promoted by Corporate Houses and short ferm measures like increasing the retirement age of the employees of the Industry.

(v) The State Government needs to play pro-active role in sorting the issues regarding land acquisition, rehabilitation, etc. and improvement of coordination of NHAI and State Governments.

(vi) Increase of viability Gap Funding upto 70% in certain projects which otherwise seem to be unviable for the Public Private Partnership.

(d) The Government has already taken the following steps to expedite the progress of the National Highways projects:—

(i) Appointment of Senior State Government Officers as Nodal Officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) such as Land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/ environment clearances.

(ii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under the Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of road over bridge (ROB).

(iii) The procedure for issue of Land Acquisition notification has now been simplified.

(iv) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to the NHAI to coordinate with the Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

(v) Action has been taken against the non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in the existing contracts.

(vi) To improve the cash flow problems of the Contractors.

ANTI-spam law

*220. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 80 per cent of all e-mail origination in India is spam;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government is working on India's first formal anti spam law in order to enable net users to get rid of net nuisance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the study conducted on Internet Security by one of the International industry leader, 76% of e-mail messages originating in India amounts to spam. However, this is only 1% to total spam e-mail messages generated worldwide.

(b) and (c) Section 43 & 66 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides a legal framework to check spam and unsolicited e-mail in the country. Further a Bill to amend Information Technology Act, 2000 was introduced in the Parliament on 15th December, 2006 to strengthen the legal framework and provisions pertaining to cyber crimes including spam in the principal Act.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Availability of Uranium in Ladakh

†1010. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scientists have claimed the availability of uranium in the ice-covered areas of Ladakh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after testing the samples taken from the rocks of Ladakh areas in the German laboratory, availability of uranium in heavy quantity here has been confirmed; and

(c) if so, the extent of time required for comprehensive information about getting uranium and starting mining in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The scientists of the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, have participated for 3 years during 1973-75 in Puga-Chumathang multi-purpose multi-disciplinary project of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ladakh area. Detailed investigations have been carried out near Chumathang area. AMD has reported low grade uranium mineralization in association with fluorite mineralization in a shear zone from Chumathang area. Grab samples (whole rock) have been analyzed and found to contain up to 0.021% U_3O_8.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-Russian deal in atomic energy

†1011. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement was signed between India and Russia in the past

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.